



CHILDREN & LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE 27 September 2018

Subject Heading:	Broadford Primary School
SLT Lead:	Tim Aldridge, Director Children's Services
Report Author and contact details:	Trevor Cook, Assistant Director, Education Services, 01708 431250 trevor.cook@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	Education outcomes
Financial summary:	There are no direct financial implications

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Places making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connections making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

Following a Standards and Testing Agency (STA) statistical analysis, Broadford Primary School had their results for English Reading and Mathematics: Paper 3 annulled. The annulments mean that the pupils did not receive a standard for English Reading or Mathematics, or an overall combined result which requires results in all papers and teacher assessment of writing. This was also reflected in the published school performance data, and will also impact the Local Authority performance data. Pupils will take their teacher assessment results through to secondary school, so will not be affected individually.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members should note the content of the report.

REPORT DETAIL

The role of STA is to investigate any matter brought to its attention where there is doubt over the accuracy or correctness of pupils' results, or teacher assessment, in the KS1 and 2 national curriculum assessments. Their legal basis for this activity is detailed in the 'Education (National Curriculum) (Key Stage 2 Assessment Arrangements) (England) Order 2003 (SI 2003/1038)' with particular reference to Article 7. STA's maladministration investigation procedures are published on GOV.UK and can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/key-stages-1-and-2-investigating-allegations-of-maladministration>.

Data comparisons conducted by the STA highlighted a number of concerns regarding the administration of the tests at the school. There were areas in which the outcomes of the pupils in Broadford deviated significantly from the national pattern, and therefore raised questions as to the possibility of irregularities in the administration. STA informed the Local Authority that they had also received a whistleblowing disclosure regarding maladministration of the tests, but no details of this have been, or will be shared with the Local Authority.

Havering Local Authority was commissioned to undertake a school visit on behalf of the STA, which took place on 5th July 2018.

Based on the information gathered from the school visit, data analysis and information generated from the script review, it was considered that there was significant doubt over the results awarded for English Reading and Mathematics: Paper 3. The STA decided to annul the results for these tests for all pupils within the cohort.

The annulments mean that the pupils did not receive a test standard for English Reading or Mathematics or an overall combined result. This was also reflected in the published school performance data.

The annulment at Broadford is one of only 5 nationally, and as such the story was covered by the following national media:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5978259/Britains-best-school-SATs-results-ruled-null-void-cheating-storm.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5980835/Headmaster-says-school-mistake-SATs-results-cancelled-cheating-row.html>

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/6840442/best-brit-school-cheating-sats/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-44917623>

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/education/school-of-the-year-pupils-branded-cheats-after-year-6-sats-tests-are-annulled-a3893721.html>

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/test-results-annulled-at-school-of-the-year-r7k0v5lqh>

Despite some troubling headlines, the majority of the stories were relatively well balanced, as are the subsequent comments.

The Local Authority has worked closely with the Executive Head Teacher and Chair of Governors to ensure the media attention was handled in the most appropriate way.

The Local Authority met with representatives of the Governing Body to agree the way forward, and an experienced investigator has been commissioned by the Governing Body to conduct a full investigation into this issue. This investigation started in August, and it is hoped that it will conclude as early as possible in the new term, subject to staff availability. The outcome of the investigation will also be reported to the STA.

A letter was sent to all staff at the school from the Chair of Governors confirming the details of the investigation, reminding them of the need for confidentiality, and offering support should they need it, recognising this is a difficult time for the school community.

The STA have shared the test papers and report with the school and Local Authority to review. Until the investigation has concluded, the press statement below will continue to be used:

“We are aware that some of the results at Broadford Primary School have been withheld following an investigation by the Standards and Testing Agency. The Local Authority and the Governing Body of the school are co-operating fully with all requests. Until we receive the final report from the Standards and Testing Agency, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

We understand this may be upsetting for parents at the school. However this delay will not cause any pupil to be at a disadvantage when transitioning to secondary school, as all pupils will have a completed Teacher Assessment for all their

subjects. Parents can also be reassured that their children's education will not in any way be affected."

A briefing has also been provided to staff from Mead School (part of the same Federation), and a shorter version will be provided to other schools in Havering.

Depending on the outcome of the investigation, the Governing Body and/or Local Authority may be required to take further action, including possible disciplinary action.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no direct financial implications from this report, although the school could be financially affected through reputational damage, although this is not possible to quantify at this time.

Legal implications and risks:

There are no direct legal implications from this report. However, as the Guidance points out the STA's role is to safeguard the integrity of the assessments. It does not apportion blame for any alleged maladministration. Any subsequent disciplinary proceedings are the responsibility of the school's governing body, which may make a referral to the Teaching Regulation Agency (previously known as the National College of Teaching and Leadership) if appropriate.

Human Resources implications and risks:

Following a full investigation, any evidence of maladministration will need to be managed under the appropriate HR process, possibly resulting in disciplinary action. In addition, the school could be affected by any reputational damage, for example with staff recruitment and retention.

Equalities implications and risks:

There are no direct equalities implications from this report, and an Equalities Assessment has not been completed as this report is for information only.